

Michael J. Frevola  
Christopher R. Nolan  
HOLLAND & KNIGHT LLP  
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ATTORNEYS FOR DEFENDANT  
OCEANOGRAFIA S.A. DE C.V.

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

DREDGING INTERNATIONAL MEXICO S.A. DE  
C.V.,

Plaintiff,

07 Civ.11394 (GEL)

-against-

OCEANOGRAFIA S.A. DE C.V.,

Defendant.

**AFFIRMATION OF MICHAEL J. FREVOLA**

STATE OF NEW YORK     )  
                                  ) ss.:  
COUNTY OF NEW YORK    )

MICHAEL J. FREVOLA an attorney admitted to practice in the State of New  
York, affirms under penalty of perjury:

1. I am a member of the bar of this Court and of the law firm of Holland & Knight  
LLP, attorneys for the defendant Oceanografia S.A. de C.V. ("Oceanografia"). I make this  
affirmation for the convenience of the Court and in support of Oceanografia's motion for an  
Order, pursuant to Rule E(7) of the Supplemental Rules for Admiralty or Maritime Claims and

Asset Forfeiture Actions ("Supplemental Rule"), directing that Plaintiff Dredging International Mexico S.A. de C.V. (hereinafter "DIMEX"), provide counter-security on Oceanografia's counter-claim. I make this affirmation on the basis of my personal knowledge, or, where indicated, on information provided to me.

2. Attached hereto as Exhibit 1 is a true and correct copy of DIMEX's Verified Complaint dated December 19, 2007.

3. Attached hereto as Exhibit 2 is a true and correct copy of Oceanografia's Verified Answer and counter-claim dated March 25, 2008.

4. I am informed that on December 27, 2007, counsel for DIMEX notified Oceanografia that pursuant to an order of attachment in this case, the following garnishee banks restrained the following amounts:

- \$51,677.90 Bank of New York
- \$25,000.00 Bank of New York
- \$100,000.00 Bank of America
- \$1,200,000.00 American Express Bank

5. I am further informed that on or about March 3, 2008, counsel for DIMEX notified counsel for Oceanografia that pursuant to an order of attachment in this case, JPMorgan Chase restrained \$1,413,940.02. The originator of the wire transfer was Caterpillar Arrendadora Financiera and the beneficiary was Maquinaria Diesel, S.A. de C.V. The sole mention of Oceanografia on the wire transfer was in the detail payment section of the CHIPS message which provided:

"Clientes: Oceanografia, SA DE CV MAQ Rent Construcciones, SA DE CV."

6. The monies noted above all remain restrained at the respective garnishee banks.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed on March 26, 2007

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
MICHAEL J. FREVOLA

# **EXHIBIT 1**

2397-1

DEORCHIS WIENER & PARTNERS, LLP  
61 Broadway, 26<sup>th</sup> Floor  
New York, New York 10006-2802  
(212) 344-4700

*Attorneys for Plaintiff*

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

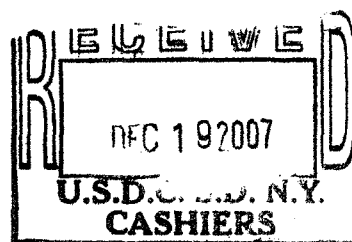
-----X  
DREDGING INTERNATIONAL MEXICO S.A.  
DE C.V.,

Plaintiff,

- against -

OCEANOGRAFIA S.A. DE C.V.,

Defendant.  
-----X



**JUDGE LYNCH**  
**07 CV 11394**  
07 Civ.

**VERIFIED COMPLAINT**  
**AND RULE B ATTACHMENT**

Plaintiff DREDGING INTERNATIONAL MEXICO S.A. DE C.V., by its attorneys, DE ORCHIS WIENER & PARTNERS, LLP., as and for its Verified Complaint against Defendant OCEANOGRAFIA S.A. DE C.V., alleges upon information and belief, as follows:

1. This is an admiralty and maritime claim with the meaning of Rule 9(h) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure and 28 U.S.C. § 1333.

2. Venue is proper under 28 U.S.C. §§ 1391 (d) because Defendant OCEANOGRAFIA S.A. DE C.V. is an alien.

3. At and during all times hereinafter mentioned, Plaintiff DREDGING INTERNATIONAL MEXICO S.A. DE C.V., (hereinafter referred to as "DIMEX" or "plaintiff") was and still is, a corporation organized and existing under and by virtue of the laws of Mexico, with a principal place of business located at Avenida Costa de Oro 648,

Fraccionamiento Costa de Oro, Boca del Rio, Veracruz, Mexico. DIMEX, at all times hereinafter mentioned, was engaged in the business of seabed dredging, rock-dumping and marine engineering.

4. Upon information and belief, Defendant Oceanografia S.A. DE C.V., (hereinafter "Oceanografia" or "Defendant") is a corporation or other business entity incorporated under the laws of Mexico or some other foreign country, with an office and place of business located at Av. 4 Oriente Lote 5 Maz. D. Puerto Isla del Carmen, C.P. 24140, Ciudad del Carmen, Campeche, Mexico, and was at all times hereinafter mentioned engaged in the business of engineering and construction including the engineering and construction of underwater oil pipelines.

5. On or about November 26, 2006, Plaintiff DIMEX, entered into a "Subcontract Agreement" with Defendant pursuant to which Plaintiff agreed to perform tasks in connection with the laying of underwater oil pipelines including the underwater survey of the proposed route, the preparation of the seabed to receive the proposed pipelines and post-lay activities including the placement of quarried rock along the route of the pipelines to support and stabilize the pipelines, all for an agreed upon payment from Defendant.

6. Plaintiff DIMEX has completed the work contemplated under the subcontract agreement with Defendant and has rendered invoices for the work undertaken and completed. Despite communicating no complaint about the work done or the invoices rendered, Defendant has failed to make payment to DIMEX under the subcontract agreement in the amount of US\$4,749,382.20 (Four-Million, Seven-Hundred Forty-Nine Thousand, Three-Hundred Eighty-Two and 20/100).

7. Plaintiff DIMEX has fulfilled all conditions precedent and is entitled to payment of the aforementioned amount plus interest. Defendant has refused to pay any portion of the amount due.

**APPLICATION FOR ISSUANCE  
OF A RULE B ATTACHMENT**

8. Each and every one of the foregoing allegations is incorporated herein by reference and reasserted as though fully set forth at length.

9. The Defendant cannot be found within this District within the meaning of Rule B of the Supplemental Rules for Certain Admiralty and Maritime Claims of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, but, upon information and belief, Defendant has, or will have during the pendency of this action, assets within this District which subjects Defendant to the jurisdiction of this Court, held in the hands of garnishees including, but not limited to, ABN Amro Bank, HSBC (USA), Bank of America, Wachovia, Citibank, American Express Bank, J.P. Morgan Chase, Bank of New York, The Clearing House Interbank Payments System LLC, The New York Clearing House Association LLC, and/or Standard Chartered Bank, which are believed to be due and owing to the Defendant.

10. The Plaintiff seeks an Order from this Court directing the Clerk of Court to issue Process of Maritime Attachment and Garnishment pursuant to Rule B of the Supplemental Rules for Certain Admiralty and Maritime Claims, attaching any assets of the Defendant held by the aforesaid garnishees for the purpose of obtaining personal jurisdiction over the Defendant, to compel the Defendant to proceed to arbitration as provided under the subcontract agreement and to secure and/or satisfy the Plaintiff's claims as described above.

**WHEREFORE**, Plaintiff prays:

A. That process in due form of law issue against the Defendant, citing Defendant to appear and answer under oath all and singular the matters alleged in the Complaint;

B. That since the Defendant cannot be found within this District pursuant to Rule B of the Supplemental Rules for Certain Admiralty and Maritime Claims, this Court issue an Order directing the Clerk of Court to issue Process of Maritime Attachment and Garnishment pursuant to Rule B of the Supplemental Rules for Certain Admiralty and Maritime Claims, attaching all tangible or intangible property in whatever form or any other funds held by any garnishee, including, but not limited to, ABN Amro Bank, HSBC (USA), Bank of America, Wachovia, Citibank, American Express Bank, J.P. Morgan Chase, Bank of New York, The Clearing House Interbank Payments System LLC, The New York Clearing House Association LLC, and/or Standard Chartered Bank, which are believed to be due and owing to the Defendant OCEANOGRAFIA S.A. DE C.V., in the amount of US\$4,749,382.20 to satisfy and/or secure Plaintiff's claims, and that all persons claiming any interest in the same be cited to appear and pursuant to Supplemental Admiralty Rule B to answer the matters alleged in the Complaint;

C. That this Court retain jurisdiction over this matter through the entry of any judgment or award associated with any of the claims currently pending, or which may be initiated in the future, including any appeals thereof; and

D. That the Plaintiff has such other, further and different relief as the Court may deem just and proper.



Dated: New York, New York  
December 18, 2007

**DEORCHIS WIENER & PARTNERS, LLP**  
*Attorneys for Plaintiff*

By: 

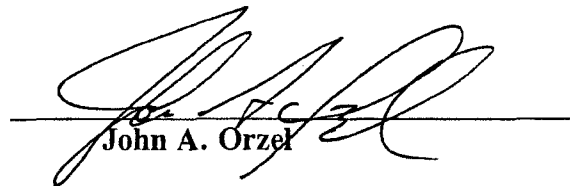
John A. Orzel (JO-2420)  
61 Broadway, 26<sup>th</sup> Floor  
New York, New York 10006-2802  
(212) 344-4700

**VERIFICATION**

John A. Orzel declares and states that he is a partner in the law firm of DeOrchis, Wiener & Partners, LLP, attorneys for Plaintiff in this action, and that the foregoing Verified Complaint is true to his knowledge, except as to matters therein stated on the information and belief and as to those matters, he believes them to be true; that the ground of his belief as to all matters not stated upon knowledge is information furnished to him to by Plaintiff; that the reason why the Verification is not made by Plaintiff is that Plaintiff is a corporation whose principal place of business is outside the New York County, and that due to the exigent nature of this proceeding it was not possible to obtain a Verification from Plaintiff; and that he is authorized to so verify.

I declare and state under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed on December 18, 2007

  
John A. Orzel

# **EXHIBIT 2**

Michael J. Frevola  
Christopher R. Nolan  
HOLLAND & KNIGHT LLP  
195 Broadway  
New York, NY 10007-3189  
(212) 513-3200

ATTORNEYS FOR DEFENDANT  
OCEANOGRAFIA S.A. DE C.V.

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

DREDGING INTERNATIONAL MEXICO S.A.  
DE C.V.,

Plaintiff,

-against-

OCEANOGRAFIA S.A. DE C.V.,

Defendant.

07 Civ. 11394 (GEL)

**VERIFIED ANSWER  
AND COUNTER-CLAIM**

NOW COMES Defendant, Oceanografia S.A. de C.V. ("Oceanografia" or "Defendant"), by and through its attorneys, Holland & Knight LLP, answering the Complaint of Plaintiff Dredging International Mexico S.A. de C.V. ("DIMEX" or "Defendant"), and respectfully alleging upon information and belief, as follows:

1. Admits the allegations set forth in paragraph "1" of the Verified Complaint.
2. Admits that Oceanografia is an alien, but denies the remainder of the allegations set forth in paragraph "2."

3. Denies having knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth or falsity of the allegations set forth in paragraph "3" of the Verified Complaint.

4. Admits the allegations set forth in paragraph "4" of the Verified Complaint, except deny as imprecise and partly inaccurate DIMEX's characterization of the nature of Oceanografia's business.

5. Admits that Oceanografia and DIMEX entered into the Subcontract Agreement under which DIMEX agreed to perform certain tasks, including but not limited to those set forth in paragraph "5" of the Verified Complaint but defined precisely by the terms of the Subcontract Agreement and which terms speak for themselves, and denies the remainder of the allegations set forth in paragraph "5" of the Verified Complaint.

6. Admits that Oceanografia has received certain invoices from DIMEX, and has not made any payment to DIMEX in the amount of US\$ 4,749,382.20 due to DIMEX's breach of the Subcontract Agreement, and denies the remainder of the allegations set forth in paragraph "6" of the Verified Complaint.

7. Admits that Oceanografia has not made payment to DIMEX in the amount claimed in paragraph "6" of the Verified Complaint due to DIMEX's breach of the Subcontract Agreement, and denies the remainder of allegations set forth in paragraph "7" of the Verified Complaint.

8. With respect to paragraph "8" of the Verified Complaint, Oceanografia repeats, reiterates and realleges each and every denial in paragraphs "1" through "7" of this Answer with the same force and effect as if fully set forth herein.

9. Admit that garnishee banks in this District have attached monies in connection with this action, but denies the remainder of the allegations set forth in paragraph "9" of the Verified Complaint.

10. Paragraph "10" asserts legal conclusions to which no response is required.

**FURTHER ANSWERING THE COMPLAINT, AND AS  
FOR SEPARATE, PARTIAL AND/OR COMPLETE DEFENSES  
THERE TO, DEFENDANT OCEANOGRAFIA STATES:**

11. The Verified Complaint fails to state a cause of action upon which relief may be granted.

12. Oceanografia is not liable to DIMEX on the causes of action alleged in the Verified Complaint.

13. The attachments were improper and do not confer *in personam* jurisdiction over Oceanografia.

14. This Court lacks *quasi in rem* jurisdiction over Oceanografia.

15. DIMEX has improperly and/or insufficiently served process on Oceanografia.

16. DIMEX's claims are barred by the equitable doctrine of unclean hands.

17. If any damages were sustained by DIMEX, as alleged in the Verified Complaint, they were proximately caused by the negligent acts of third persons whom Oceanografia has no direction or control.

18. DIMEX is guilty of culpable conduct in the events giving rise to the claims now asserted in the Verified Complaint, and its recovery, if any, must be diminished in proportion thereto.

19. DIMEX's claims are overstated in the level of security sought from and provided by Oceanografia and should be reduced to a reasonable sum.

20. Oceanografia pleads by way of defense and/or limitation every provision in the Subcontract Agreement.

21. Plaintiff's claim is subject to arbitration in Houston, Texas and Mexican law pursuant to the Subcontract Agreement, and Oceanografia has no liability to DIMEX as a matter of law.

22. DIMEX has failed to mitigate its damages.

23. This Answer and Counter-claim is made without waiver of any of the jurisdictional defenses or rights to arbitrate that may exist between the parties.

#### **OCEANOGRAFIA'S COUNTERCLAIM**

As for its Counter-claim against the Plaintiff DIMEX, Defendant Oceanografia S.A. de C.V. alleges as follows:

24. At all material times herein, Oceanografia's corporate offices were and are located at S. Díaz Mirón 1012 altos., Col. Ma. De la Piedad, 96410 Coatzacoalcos, Veracruz, Mexico, and maintains a branch office and headquarters are located at Av. 4 Oriente Lote 5 Maz. D. Puerto Isla del Carmen, C.P. 24140.

25. Oceanografia's counter-claim arises under the Subcontract Agreement referenced in paragraph "5" of the Verified Complaint whereby Oceanografia, as Contractor, contracted with DIMEX, as Subcontractor, on November 26, 2006.

26. The purpose of the Subcontract Agreement was to perform certain work under a contract ("Main Contract") that Oceanografia has with a third party, PEMEX Exploration and Production ("PEMEX"), to install an oil pipeline as part of the KUMAZA Project in La Sonda de Campeche, an oil producing region of Mexico ("Project").

27. The Main Contract is considered a government contract. Mexican law, similar to U.S. law, contains a provision applicable to government contracts whereby contractors are forbidden from bidding on future government contracts for three years after the default on a government contract.

28. In order to perform its work under the Subcontract Agreement, DIMEX secured use of the "Dynamic Positioned Fall Pipe Vessel" TIDEWAY ROLLINGSTONE, which subsequently performed work on behalf of DIMEX under the Subcontract.

29. The Subcontract only involved one segment of the Project called the Package L comprised of pipelines 48 and 50. DIMEX's work performed on pipeline 48 ("KMZ 48") is the subject of both DIMEX's Verified Complaint and this counter-claim.

30. Under Section 2.1 of the Subcontract Agreement:

The SUBCONTRACTOR [DIMEX] undertakes to perform the work, supplies, products and services specified in the Exhibit B of this Subcontract Agreement related to Provision of Rock Dumping Services in respect to PEMEX Kumaza Package L Project, Mexico, hereinafter referred to as the "Services."

31. Under Section 2.2 of the Subcontract Agreement:

The SUBCONTRACTOR undertakes to perform the Services in accordance with this Subcontract Agreement, in a professional and careful manner.



32. Exhibit B of the Subcontract sets forth the "Scope of Work," and provides that DIMEX will perform, *inter alia*, both pre-lay and post-lay rock dumping to create a continuous berm along the length of the KMZ 48, though Oceanografia was responsible for the laying of the pipeline.

33. The purpose of the pre-lay rock dumping was to ensure separation between the coral reef and pipelines, and the purpose of the post-lay rock dumping was to support and stabilize the continuous pre-lay supports.

34. Shortly after Oceanografia began laying the pipeline along the pre-lay rock berm route set by DIMEX, DIMEX admitted in a notice to Oceanografia that it had placed the pre-lay rock berm for KMZ 48 in the wrong location.

35. DIMEX's placing of the pre-lay rock berm in the wrong location constitutes a material breach of the Subcontract Agreement resulting in damages to Oceanografia for which DIMEX is liable.

36. Oceanografia incurred damages presently estimated in the amount of US\$786,013.25, the market value for eight days of work that was performed by Oceanografia's vessel, the WITCH QUEEN, which corrected the misplacement of the pipeline caused by DIMEX's contractual breach.

37. As a result of DIMEX's failure to properly lay the pre-lay rock berm, construction of KMZ 48 was delayed for an amount presently estimated at 27.17791667 days directly attributable to DIMEX's contractual breach. Ultimately, PEMEX fined Oceanografia US\$5,121,221.30 under the Main Contract for 112 days of work on KMZ 48. Of those 112 days,

an amount presently estimated as 27.17791667 days directly is attributable to DIMEX's breach of the Subcontract Agreement, totaling US\$1,242,715.41, which DIMEX owes Oceanografia.

38. Due to DIMEX's breach of the Subcontract Agreement and the resulting delays, work on KUMAZA Project was further delayed an amount estimated as a total of ten days due to inclement weather which would not have been encountered had DIMEX's work been completed properly in accordance with the terms of the Subcontract Agreement. The daily hire rate for the BOLD ENDURANCE is \$176,219.63. Using this hire rate for the KUMAZA project work (including KMZ 50), the ten-day weather delays resulted in \$1,762,190.63 in damages.

39. Oceanografia also is due US\$524,971.42 from DIMEX for 2019.5 cubic meters of quarry rock, which it purchased for the KMZ 48 pipeline, and which DIMEX rendered useless by laying it in the wrong location in breach of the Subcontract Agreement.

40. Oceanografia also suffered a net loss for having to mitigate DIMEX's failure to finish the Project by self-performing DIMEX's tasks as set forth in the Subcontract Agreement after DIMEX's withdrawal of its vessel TIDEWAY ROLLINGSTONE. It cost Oceanografia US\$2,476,231.00 more for it to perform DIMEX's duties on KMZ 50 (the second pipeline comprising Project L) which DIMEX agreed to perform to perform under the Subcontract Agreement.

41. Because the Main Contract is a government contract, Oceanografia was bound to complete its performance. A breach of the Main Contract with PEMEX would result in a three-year hiatus during which Oceanografia would be forbidden from bidding on all PEMEX projects, resulting in even greater losses than those stated in paragraph "40" herein.

42. Oceanografia also is entitled to US\$535,540.72 constituting its lost profits under KMZ 50, which would have been earned had DIMEX not breached the Subcontract Agreement.

43. Based on paragraphs "36" through "42," DIMEX owes Oceanografia US\$7,327,662.43 due to its breach of the Subcontract Agreement.

44. Clause 6.1 of the Subcontract Agreement provides for the application of Mexican law.

45. Clause 6.2 of the Subcontract Agreement provides that all disputes arising out of or, in connection, with the Subcontract shall be arbitrated in Houston in accordance with the Rules of Arbitration of the International Chamber of Commerce ("ICC Rules").

46. Oceanografia shall file for arbitration in accordance with the terms of the Subcontract Agreement, and its Answer and counter-claim herein are not and cannot be considered a waiver of the parties' agreement to arbitrate.

#### **PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

WHEREFORE, the Defendant Oceanografia S.A. de C.V. respectfully requests:

1. That this Court dismisses the Plaintiff's Verified Complaint against the Defendant with prejudice;
2. That this Court cites Plaintiff to answer under oath all allegations in Defendant's counter-claim;
3. That pursuant to the Supplemental Rules for Certain Admiralty or Maritime Claims and Asset Forfeiture Actions, this Court issue an Order directing Plaintiff to post counter-security in the sum of US\$7,327,662.43, failing which, (a) Plaintiff be enjoined from prosecuting its claims against Oceanografia here, in the Houston arbitration, or any other venue; and/or (b)

Plaintiff's attachment of any and all of Defendant's property attached in this action pursuant to Rule B of the Supplemental Rules for Certain Admiralty or Maritime Claims and Asset Forfeiture Actions immediately be vacated;

4. That upon the posting of Plaintiff's counter-security in the sum of US\$7,327,662.43, that this matter be placed on the suspense calendar pending arbitration in Houston, and that this Court retain jurisdiction over this matter through the entry of any judgment or award associated with any of the claims currently pending, or which may be initiated in the future, including any appeals thereof;

5. That this Court recognize and confirm any arbitration award(s) or judgment(s) rendered on the counter-claim set forth herein as a Judgment of this Court; and

6. That this Court grant Oceanografia such other and further relief as the Court may deem just and proper.

Dated: New York, New York  
March 25, 2008

HOLLAND & KNIGHT LLP  
By:   
Michael J. Frevola  
Christopher R. Nolan  
HOLLAND & KNIGHT LLP  
195 Broadway  
New York, New York 10007  
(212) 513-3200  
*Attorneys for Defendant  
Oceanografia S.A. de C.V.*

TO: DEORCHIS, WIENER & PARTNERS  
John A. Orzel  
61 Broadway, 26<sup>th</sup> Floor  
New York, New York  
10006-2820  
*Attorneys for Plaintiff*

VERIFICATION

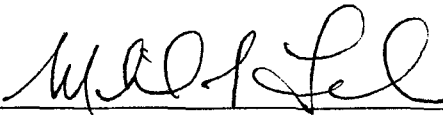
STATE OF NEW YORK )

:ss.:

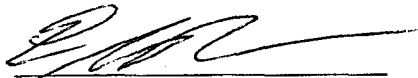
COUNTY OF NEW YORK )

MICHAEL J. FREVOLA, being duly sworn, deposes and says:

I am a member of the firm of Holland & Knight LLP, counsel for Oceanografia S.A. de C.V. ("Oceanografia"), defendant in the foregoing action. I have read the foregoing Verified Answer and counter-claim and know the contents thereof, and the same are true and correct to the best of my knowledge. I have reviewed documentation provided to me by Oceanografia and corresponded with Oceanografia's representatives regarding this matter. I am authorized by Oceanografia to make this verification, and the reason for my making it as opposed to an officer or director of Oceanografia is that there are none within the jurisdiction of this Honorable Court.

  
Michael J. Frevola

Sworn to before me this  
25<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2008



Notary Public

Elvin Ramos  
Notary Public, State of New York  
NO. 01RA4870243  
Qualified in Queens County  
Certificate filed in New York County  
Commission Expires September 2, 2010

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